

Dear LaGrange Recreation Family & Friends,

April 7, 2020

I hope this message finds you and your family doing well and adjusting the best you can to social distancing and “sheltering in place” at your home. I also hope that you have been following along on our social media platforms for activity ideas, links, challenges, the sunshine project, and general support to get us all through this time apart.

We recently posted where things stand with day camp, and today I want to give you updates on Freedom Lake. As with camp, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health is not issuing permits for lakes or public pools at this time. We do not know when (or if) a permit will be issued to open Freedom Lake this summer. If we receive a permit, it may be a short summer swim season.

What does that mean? Well, first off it means that we are waiting for time to pass to see how this virus develops locally and to see how quickly we can move away from it and begin to resume normal operations. As with camp, we will evaluate at the end of April to determine what the month of May will look like. At that time, I will be making new announcements relating to summer program registration dates and all other pertinent information.

Current changes:

- We are not taking any new registrations for lifeguarding or CPR classes.
- We are not taking any new pavilion rentals.
- We have suspended sales of Freedom Lake passes until we know what the season holds.
- We are not accepting any more summer employment applications.
- Summer staff interviews for new staff members are on hold.
- All April and May Recreation Department events at Freedom Park are cancelled.
- May training for summer staff TBD
- NOTE: Full refunds will be given if we need to cancel any classes, rentals, etc.

As is standard practice, we began gearing up for our summer season in January. All returning staff have been recalled and have their pre-season schedule in hand. Rest assured, we have a large and wonderful returning staff roster ready to go. If we get the green light from the health department, we will be business as usual and ready to welcome you to another wonderful summer at the lake. We will announce information to you as soon as decisions are made. We are keeping our spirits high and are hopeful that we will get past this in time to make wonderful memories together.

Finally, Freedom Park is currently closed. Please do not park in front of the gate for any reason. Our fire department needs access and a family lives on site and also needs to be able to get in and out. A reminder to you that in the rest of our parks all playgrounds, sport courts, pavilions and athletic fields are closed. Warm weather is arriving and we hope you get out and enjoy the other areas of the parks.

Thank you for always supporting our efforts and for being such a wonderful community. We are in this together and we will see this through with teamwork and cooperation. Stay healthy and take care.

Best regards,

Sandy Washburn

Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of LaGrange